

Message Text

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17-20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AID-20 DRC-01 CPR-02

SSC-01 EA-11 ARA-16 MC-02 NEA-10 /212 W

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R 091031Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1311

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCLANT

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1487

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US SO PFOR

SUBJ: INITIAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SIAD

1. SUMMARY. PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO SIAD OCTOBER 8 WAS FOLLOWED BY 90-MINUTE TALK WITH HIM IN PRESENCE OF FONMIN. SIAD SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED HIS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON TO INVITE SEVERAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO VISIT SOMALIA. HE SAID SOMALI OFFICIALS HAD NO TIME FOR "PARTIES" WITH DIPLOMATS AND ADVISED AMERICANS TO LIMIT THEIR TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF MOGADISCIO, BUT HE INDICATED FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD HELP WITH OFFICE CONTACTS WITH SOMALIS AND WITH SOME TRAVEL. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS, WHICH INCLUDED STATEMENT BY SIAD EMPHASIZING SOMALIA'S POSITION ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS, SIAD TOOK ME ASIDE FOR PROLONGED CONVERSATION IN PRE-CONFIDENTIAL

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SENCE FONMIN. I LED OFF WITH STATEMENT OF PLEASURE AT IMPROVE-

MENT IN RELATIONS OVER PAST TWO YEARS. I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SOMALI GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED FACT THAT US FELT SOMALI INTERNAL POLICIES WERE MATTER FOR SOMALIS TO DECIDE AND THAT AID CUTOFF HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN PURSUANT TO CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION BECAUSE OF SOMALI SHIPPING TO NORTH VIETNAM AND CUBA AND NOT RPT NOT BECAUSE OF NATURE OF SOMALI REVOLUTION. I SAID US WANTED PEACE IN HORN OF AFRICA, FELT THAT SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN DISPUTE WAS BASICALLY AFRICAN MATTER, AND SUPPORTED OAU EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH IT. US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA WAS PURELY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES.

3. SIAD THEN WENT OVER MUCH FAMILIAR GROUND ON ORIGINS OF REVOLUTION, NATURE OF SOMALIA'S SELF-DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, HISTORY OF DISPUTE WITH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA'S DESIRE FOR PEACE. HE RECALLED HIS LETTER OF JUNE 2 TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT REPLY HE HAD RECEIVED. HE STATED HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE PRESIDENT AND ASKED THAT HIS GREETINGS BE CONVEYED TO HIM. SIAD SAID THAT IF OAU COMMITTEE FAILED TO RESOLVE ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI DISPUTE, HE WOULD SEEK THE GOOD OFFICES OF ANY OTHER NATION, INCLUDING US, TO SETTLE THE MATTER.

4. SIAD REFERRED WITH SATISFACTION TO CONGRESSMAN BINGHAM'S VISIT AND SAID HE HAD AUTHORIZED HIS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON TO INVITE SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO COME TO SOMALIA.

5. SIAD SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY MY PREDECESSORS TO FACILITATE MORE SOCIAL CONTACT BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND SOMALIS. HOWEVER, HIS COLLEAGUES WERE VERY BUSY AND HAD NO TIME FOR "PARTIES", NO MATTER HOW PLEASANT THEY MIGHT BE. HE ALSO STATED THAT DURING THIS "TENSE REVOLUTIONARY ERA" SOMALI MILITARY AND POLICE MIGHT ON OCCASION TREAT DIPLOMATS WITHOUT PROPER COURTESY, ESPECIALLY OUTSIDE OF MOGADISCIO. HE REGRETTED THIS. BEST WAY TO AVOID SUCH INCIDENTS WOULD BE FOR AMERICANS TO MINIMIZE THEIR TRAVEL.

6. I REJOINED THAT FOR EMBASSY TO UNDERSTAND SOMALI POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD SAID WAS VERY DESIRABLE, IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR MYSELF AND STAFF TO MEET SOMALI OFFICIALS - IN THEIR OFFICES IF THERE WAS NO TIME FOR "PARTIES" - AND TO SEE SOME OF COUNTRY OUTSIDE OF MOGADISCIO. SIAD SAID WE SHOULD

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TURN TO FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR HELP IN THIS RESPECT AND THAT FOMIN "WOULD GIVE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS".

7. COMMENT. MIDDLE EAST SITUATION DID NOT ARISE. NEW SPANISH AMBASSADOR, WHO RESIDENT IN CAIRO, TOLD ME HE HAD RAISED MIDDLE EAST SITUATION TWICE DURING HIS TALKS WITH SIAD. LATTER HAD NOT MADE ANY COMMENT AND HAD KEPT CONVERSATION TO MORE IMMEDIATE SOMALI CONCERNS.

8. ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT. FACT SIAD GAVE ME SO MUCH TIME ON DAY HE WAS RECEIVING CREDENTIALS FROM FOUR OTHER AMBASSADORS (EACH OF WHOM STAYED ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES WITH PRESIDENT) WAS CLEAR MARK OF IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO US/SOMALI RELATIONSHIP, AND HIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON CONGRESSIONAL VISITS WAS ENCOURAGING. HOWEVER, AS IS APPARENT FROM ABOVE, SIAD GAVE NOTHING AWAY AND IT IS CLEAR THAT "NORMAL" DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONING HERE IS STILL WELL IN THE FUTURE.
KIRK

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